

Hog Houses for Wisconsin



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Hog House Pointers

A Large, Elaborate Hog House is a needless expense and very often is not as comfortable as a smaller simpler house.

Successful Hog Men have simple but efficient equipment in the way of shelter for hogs.

A Neat, Attractive Hog House need not be expensive. A few trees and shrubs around the hog house will present a more pleasing appearance.

A Central House makes it more convenient to care for stock and to show breeding stock to prospective buyers.

Movable Houses Are Less Expensive and enable farmers to keep pigs on clean ground.

Sanitary Quarters Are Necessary for producing pigs at a profit.

A Combination of a small central house and movable houses is recommended for most farms.

Hog Houses For Wisconsin

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DRY, CLEAN quarters are necessary to produce pigs at a profit; and can be provided at a reasonable cost. Dark, wet, filthy houses cut down the efficiency of the hog, while elaborate and expensive quarters create too great an overhead charge for him to return the greatest profit.

The increase of hog diseases and parasites in hog producing sections has forced attention to sanitary measures which were unnecessary in the past. It has been found that old hog lots, pens and houses harbor these pests from year to year.*

What Are the Essentials of a Good House?

From the pig's standpoint the most important points are:

Moisture control—Hogs can stand cold weather very well if they have dry sleeping quarters. To be dry a house must have a tight roof, insulated walls, a well-drained floor and proper ventilation.

Heat control—The warmer the house is in winter the more feed will be saved providing other conditions are right. The floor, walls and roof should hold heat in the winter and keep it out in the summer. The kind of roof is important. The amount of space in the house which the hog's body must warm needs to be reduced to a minimum.

Ventilation—Ventilation is very closely connected with the control of heat and moisture; and the regulation of these is more important than the supply of fresh air. Drafts from openings or large open spaces can be avoided.

Light—A well-lighted house is more likely to be kept clean and free from disease, but it is well to remember that many large windows let heat escape and that sunlight coming through ordinary window glass is not so beneficial as direct sunlight. Under Wisconsin conditions it is better to use a type of house which

*A modern method of control worked out in McLean County, Illinois, by Ransom and Raffensperger of the United States Department of Agriculture, and known as the McLean County system of swine sanitation, requires certain housing conditions. Some of the plans in this circular fit this scheme.

does not have windows in the roof. The plans in this circular show houses built to let in plenty of light without allowing too much heat to be lost.

Safety and Comfort—Injuries to pigs may be caused by slippery floors, floors with large cracks or holes in them, low or narrow doors, high door sills or heavy banging doors. Fenders, as shown in all the plans, will protect little pigs.

From the owner's standpoint the most important points are:

Low cost—Some of the most successful breeders have simple hog houses and equipment. High priced, fancy houses are a luxury. However, a building poorly made will be constantly in need of repair so that the upkeep cost will be high.

Dry and convenient location—A high, well-drained piece of ground with a sunny exposure is desirable. Easy access to corn cribs and other barns will save labor. Locating hog houses away from poultry yards and dairy barns is an aid in sanitation and decreases fire risk.

Attractive appearance—A neat, attractive building adds to the general appearance of the farm and increases the owner's pride. A few trees and shrubs around the hog house will present a more pleasing appearance.



FIG. 1—CENTRAL TYPE OF HOG HOUSE

A good type of house with concrete feeding floor on one side that has proved very satisfactory.



FIG. 2—THE SHED ROOF TYPE OF MOVABLE HOUSE

The houses are pulled up to a concrete feeding floor for sows and litters in early spring.

Comparing Central and Movable Houses

Although there are many different kinds of houses they are generally classified as central and movable. A central house is a large, stationary building with several pens. A movable house is smaller, portable and has only one or two pens. Four sizes of central hog houses are shown in plans 1, 2, 3 and 7 and four types of movable houses in plans 4, 5, 6 and 8.

Plans for Wisconsin

The accompanying plans are the types suggested for Wisconsin conditions. The 6' x 10' shed-roof movable house is the one used at the experiment station. It will house two sows and their pigs, twelve fattening pigs, eight to ten gilts or four to five old sows. It is easy to move, easy to clean, and furnishes dry quarters in the winter time and excellent shade in the summer.

Central Hog House*Advantages*

1. Less time and labor are necessary to care for hogs where everything is done under one roof.
2. It can be built so it will be warmer and also can be heated more readily.
3. The necessary attention, especially at farrowing time, is much easier to give. It is impossible to give the same care to a number of sows in separate houses.
4. Breeding stock can be shown to much better advantage, particularly when it is muddy or the weather is bad.
5. It provides a central feeding floor for older hogs.

Disadvantages

1. It is very difficult to move a central hog house. For that reason it is almost impossible to avoid infected lots.
2. A central house is not usually easy to reach from rotated pastures.
3. Isolation is almost impossible. Disease will spread more rapidly. The sow with a litter is much more apt to be disturbed by the squealing of other pigs.
4. Animals fed in the central house do not take the necessary exercise to keep them healthy and to enable sows to give birth to large, vigorous pigs.
5. The cost of building is high. This makes a large overhead charge for which the hogs must pay.

Movable Hog House*Advantages*

1. Aids in sanitation. On most farms it is impossible to have access to rotated pastures from the central house. The movable house provides shelter on such pastures.

Disadvantages

1. Less convenient. It requires more work to take care of the same number of hogs. Especially at farrowing time in early spring when the weather is bad, it is difficult to care for many sows in separate houses.

2. Cost is low. The movable house is a practical one for the beginner or the owner of small herds. It can be made of short lengths which are generally cheaper.
3. Excellent for housing pregnant sows. If the sows are kept in this type of house, they can be fed some distance from the sleeping quarters. The exercise they are forced to take in this way helps greatly in securing large, thrifty litters.
4. Separation easily secured. Newly purchased or sick animals can be more completely separated from the rest of the herd. Young growing boars can be kept off by themselves so they will be more quiet and eat better. There is less danger of accidental breeding.
5. Supplements the central house. A combination of a small central house and a few movable houses is perhaps the ideal arrangement on most farms. Sows can farrow in the central house and be moved into the movable houses when the pigs are a week or ten days old. In that way several sows can be taken care of in a small farrowing house.
2. No room for storage. Some other building must be used for feed, bedding and water supply.
3. Less durable. Houses that are moved frequently do not last so long as stationary houses. Stronger construction, such as is used in permanent houses, would make movable houses too heavy.
4. Cannot display stock so well. This applies to breeders who have stock for sale. Small houses do not make as impressive appearance for advertising purposes.
5. Heating is difficult. Lanterns or small heaters in movable houses are not very satisfactory and require constant care.

Trend Toward Smaller Houses

The kind of a hog house to build has always been a difficult question to settle. Of the many things to consider, however, low overhead cost and proper sanitation are beginning to stand out. The first is not a new factor but, as in all farm practices, the need for more economical production is becoming more urgent every year.

Most men have come to realize that they cannot raise large litters by using the same old lots year after year. Using fresh rotated pastures calls for movable hog houses on nearly every farm. If movable houses are necessary, the size of the central house must be made smaller to keep down the overhead cost. From these facts it would seem that the trend in type of hog houses for the northern climate is toward smaller central houses which are supplemented by small movable houses.

How Materials Compare

Since heat and moisture control are most important, materials should be used which will hold the heat given off by the hogs. Wood has the advantage of strength with high insulating value but it is not fireproof and decays more rapidly than some of the other materials. Masonry, concrete or steel may be lasting and



FIG. 3—TWO PEN SHED ROOF TYPE

A very popular house in some sections of the state.



FIG. 4—THE IOWA TYPE OF MOVABLE HOUSE

One side is raised to furnish shade. Doors in the roof can be opened to let direct sunlight into the house in early spring.

largely fireproof but they do not hold heat so well. However, they are essential for foundations and floors and are very desirable when lined with wood or other insulating material.

Large spaces in tile, between wood studding or continuous spaces in concrete block or other walls are not desirable because they permit circulation of air. Air spaces must be small like the pores in wood or in commercial insulating materials for best results. Most soft, porous insulating materials are not suitable where hogs can reach them or where moisture collects.

Money can be saved by using short length lumber or odd lengths which can often be purchased cheaper if farmers buy together.

Floors Should be Easily Cleaned

Concrete makes clean, permanent and satisfactory floor material for hog houses. For the part of the house where the hogs sleep, a wood overlay which can be creosoted, keeps the hogs off the concrete at a reasonable cost. Concrete floors for hog houses are easy to make without special equipment or expense. Wood floors have little place in a central hog house, but plank floors are used in some portable houses although they are not essential. A floor stiffens the portable house for moving.

The dirt floor is either dry and dusty or muddy. In winter it is often frozen and rough. It is bound to harbor disease germs and is very hard to clean. Another disadvantage is that rats burrow under it.

Straw Makes Good Insulation

Straw, which is common and plentiful on farms, makes effective insulation. That is why hog houses with either a second floor for storing bedding or a straw loft are recommended for Wisconsin. Heat losses in general are much greater through the roof than from the walls. Contrary to some opinions, straw used as insulation above the pens in a hog house does not harbor mice and other pests. Straw is easy to place, low in cost and effective. (See Plans 2, 3 and 7.) This material need not be removed every year and in fact is better if left longer. New straw should be put on top. Straw should be packed tight and be at least two feet thick after settling.

Although straw used in this way does not provide ventilation it will seldom fail to improve heat and moisture conditions in a hog house. Doors or openings should be provided in walls above the straw pack so that it will dry out. These doors should be open in all but severe weather.



FIG. 5—A TEMPORARY SHADE

A few posts set in the ground supporting poles or panels covered with straw make a very satisfactory shade.

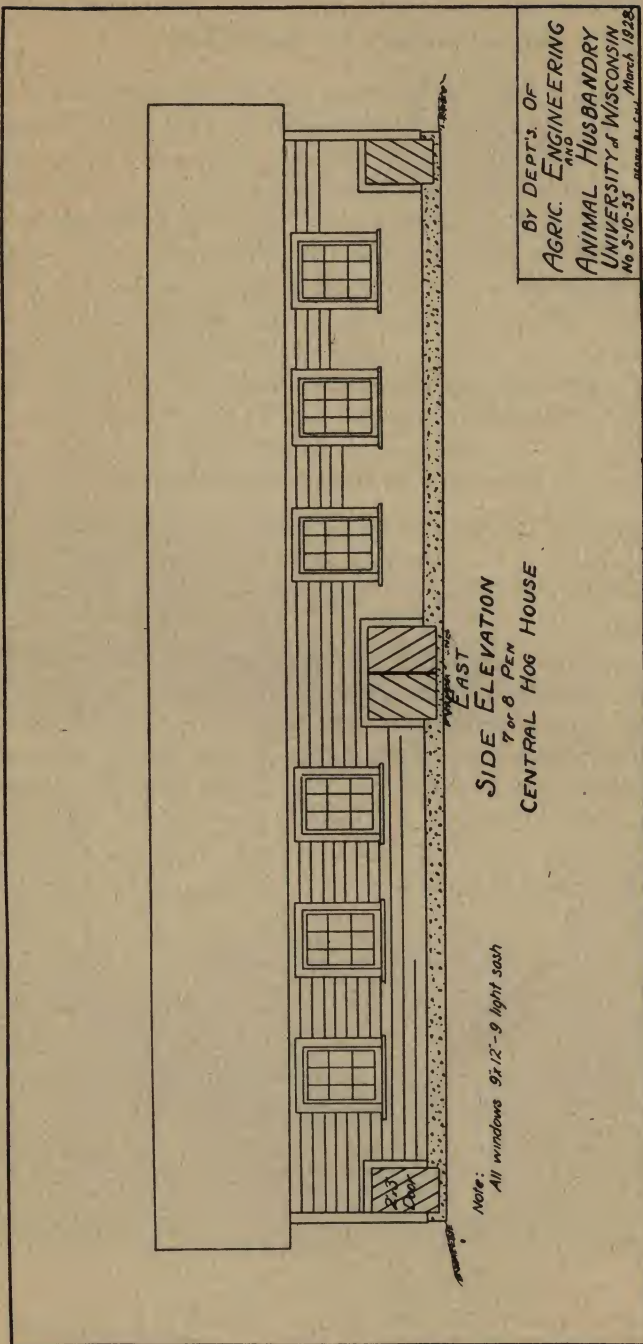
Simple Ventilation for Small Houses

The plans for central hog houses call for windows which can be opened for ventilation. These should be hinged at the bottom to swing inward against a sheet metal or wood guard at the side. Low ceilings reduce the space for each hog to warm. If the walls, roof and ceiling are well insulated and the ceiling is low then good ventilation can be secured by window adjustment. On account of the taller buildings and trees near the hog house on the farm, a system of ventilating flues generally fails to operate. However, when a tight ceiling is used outlet flues will need to be installed. Special care should be taken to build such a house away from other buildings or groups of trees.

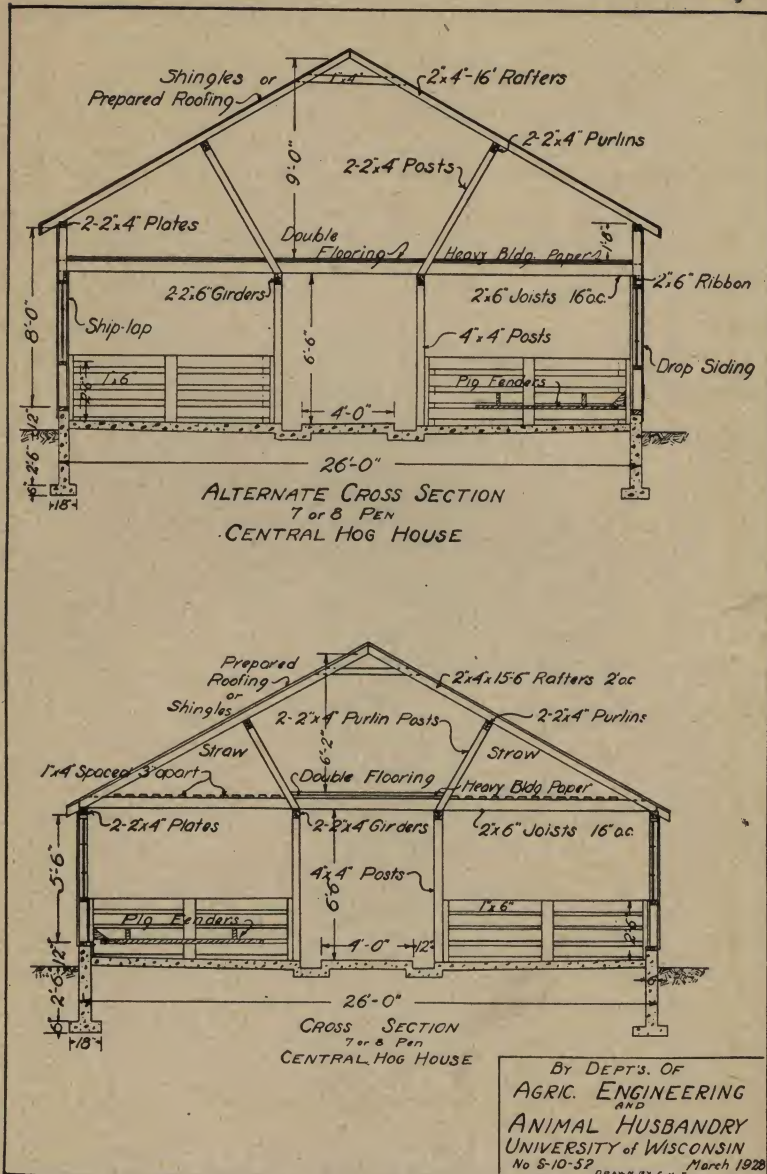
Some Form of Heating Desirable

If any heating system is to be installed, hot air is the most desirable because it is the cheapest. Most hog houses have enough moisture in them, too much in fact, and the hot air helps to dry the building.

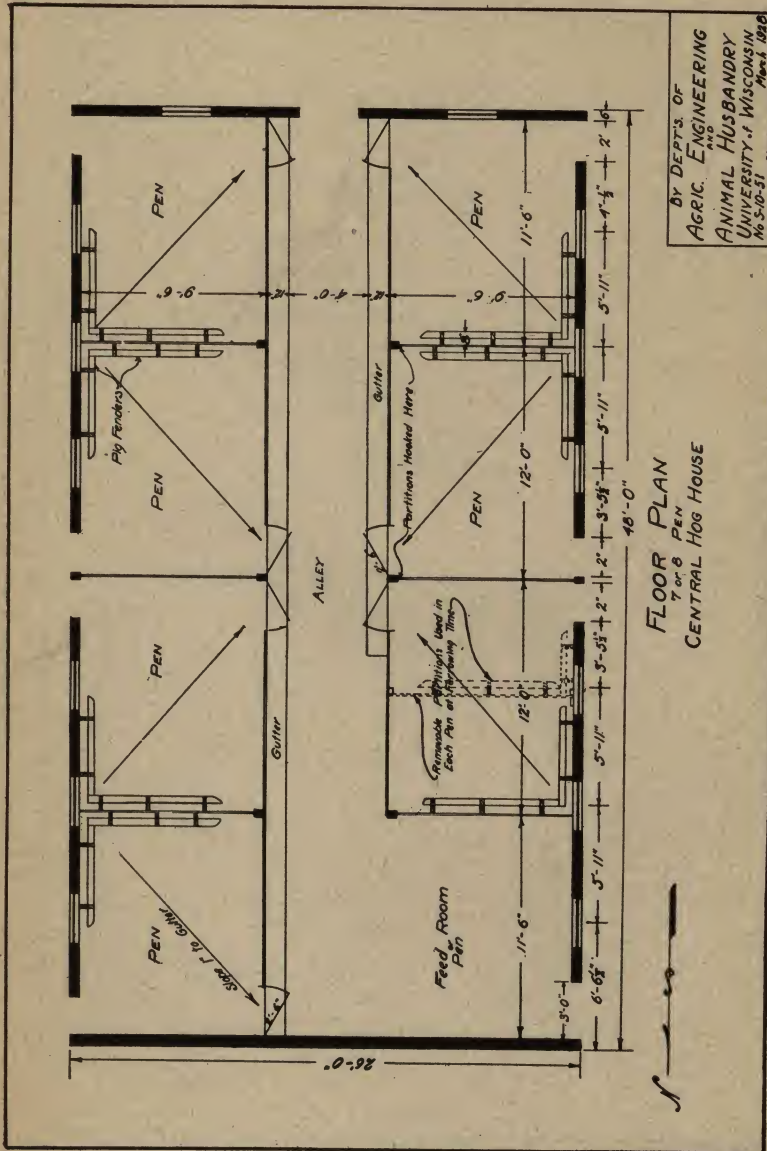
It is a good plan to place the stove or furnace, depending on the size of the building, near the center of the house. Surround the stove with a metal jacket raised six inches from the floor and extending about six inches above the top of the stove. It should be large enough so that there will be about 12 inches between it and the stove. The top is left entirely open. This arrangement causes a circulation with the hot air rising from the jacket and the cold air passing in at the bottom.

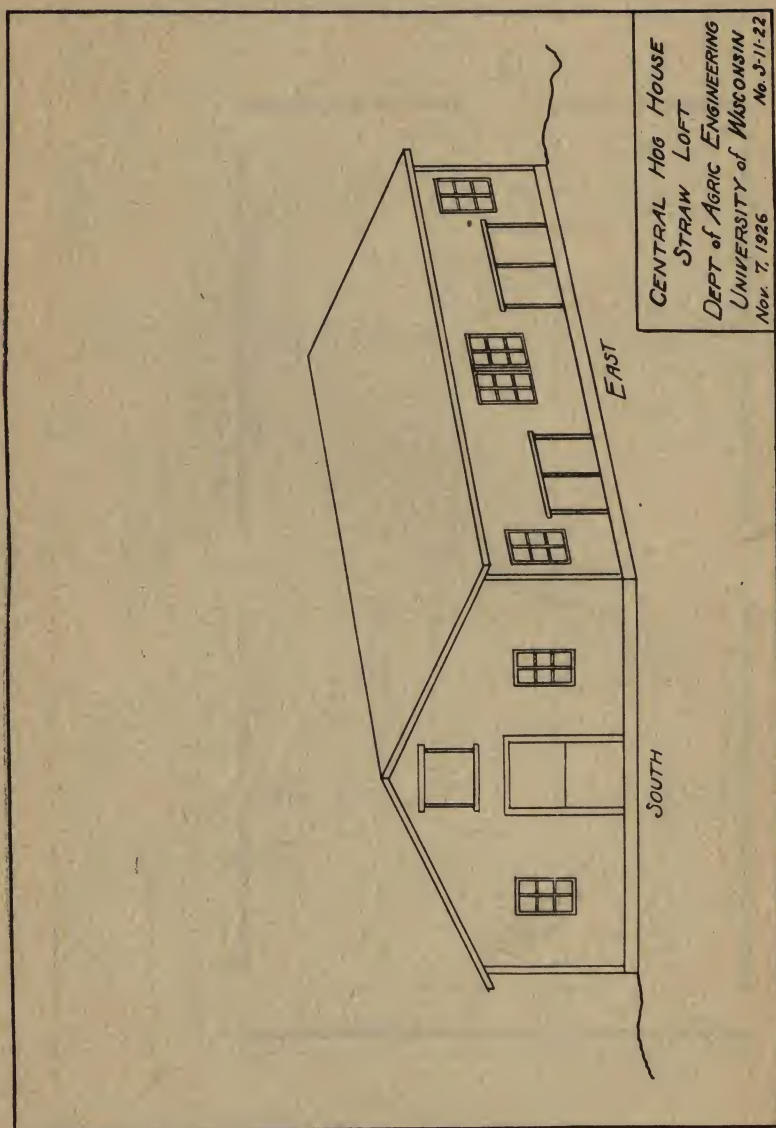


Plan 1—Two Story Central House

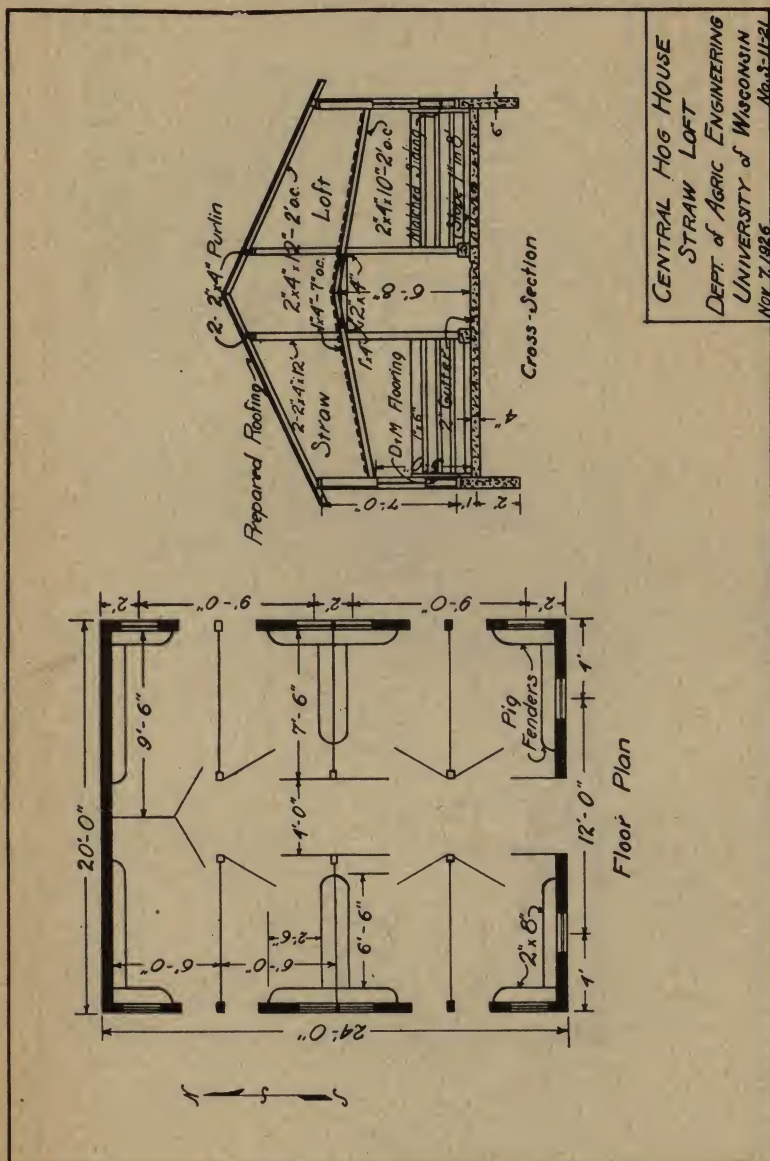


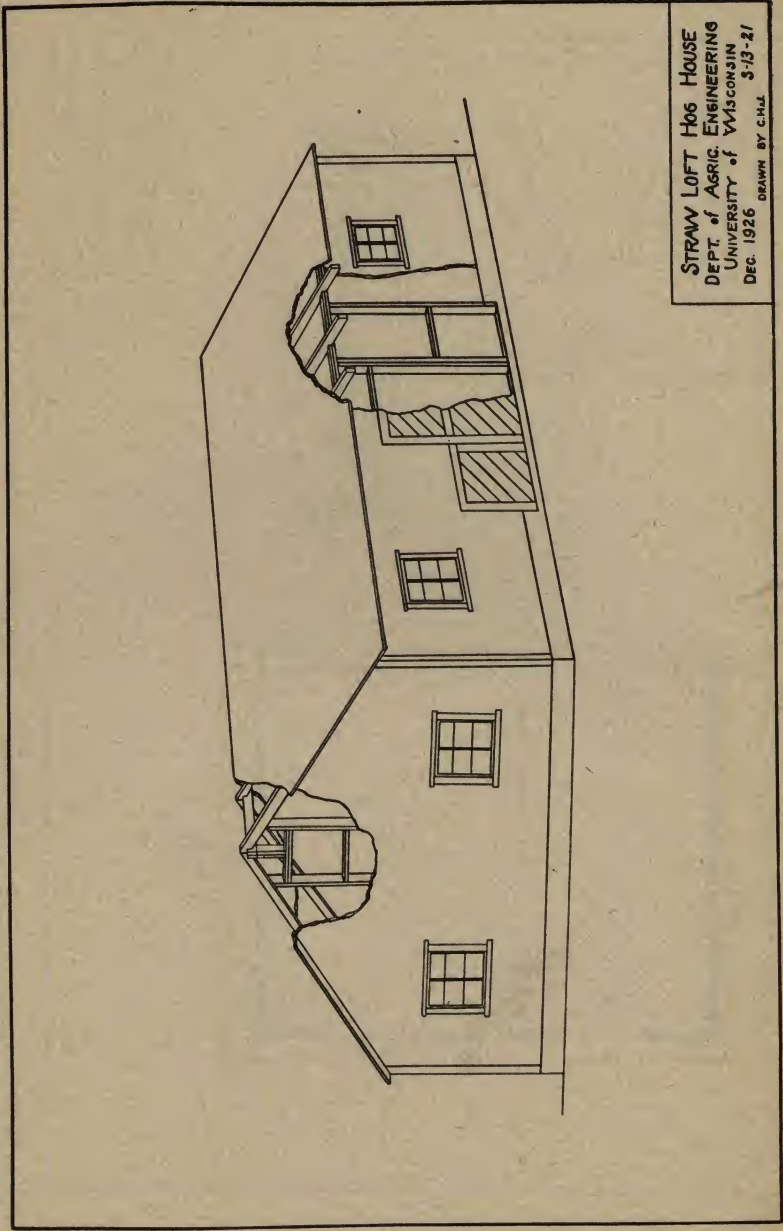
Plan 1





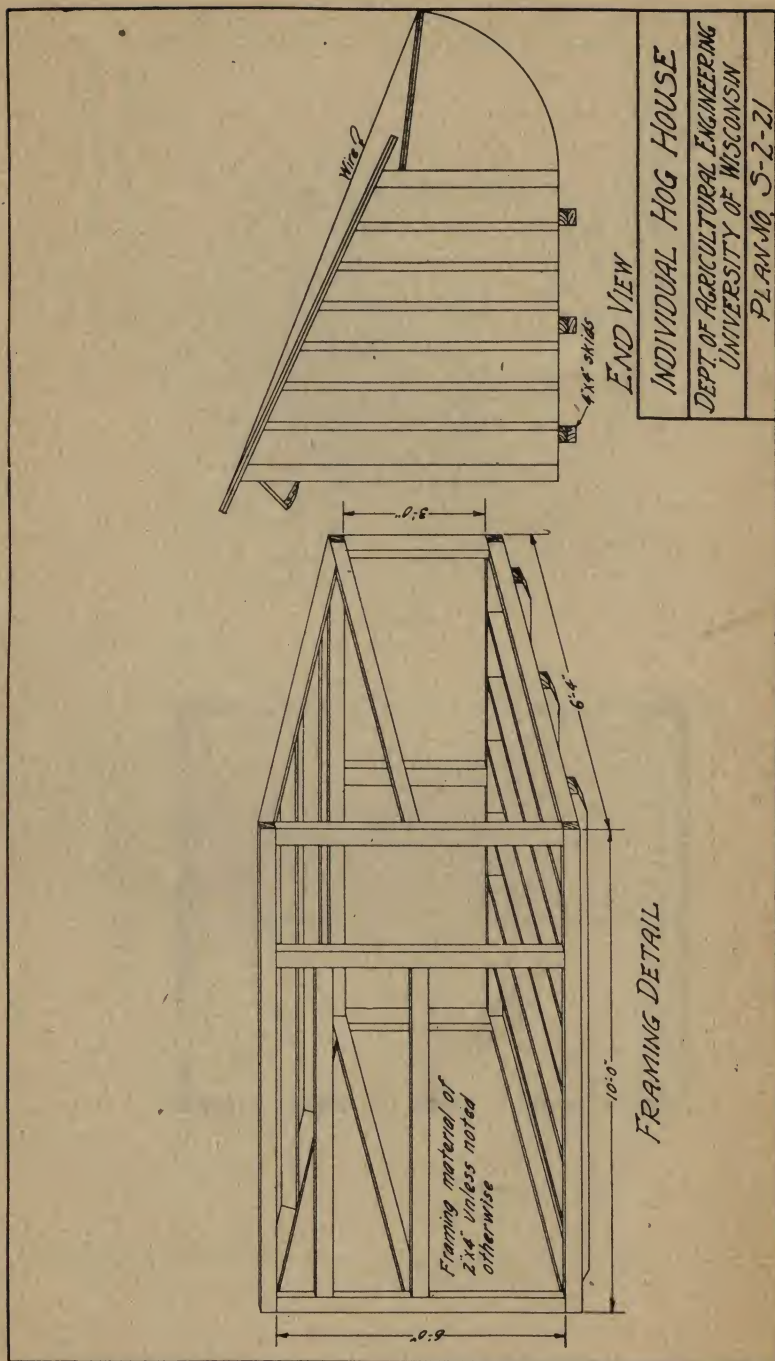
Plan 2—Eight Pen Straw Loft Central House





STRAW LOFT HOG HOUSE
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UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
DEC. 1926
DRAWN BY C.H.L.
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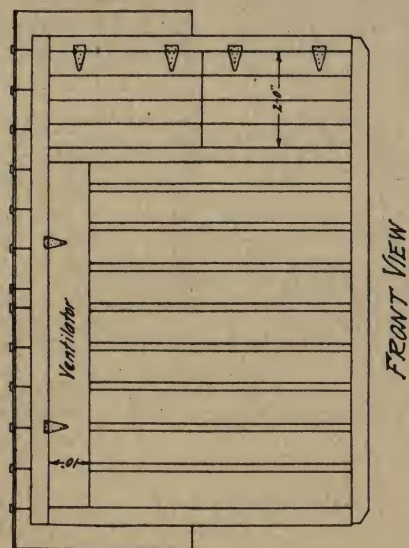
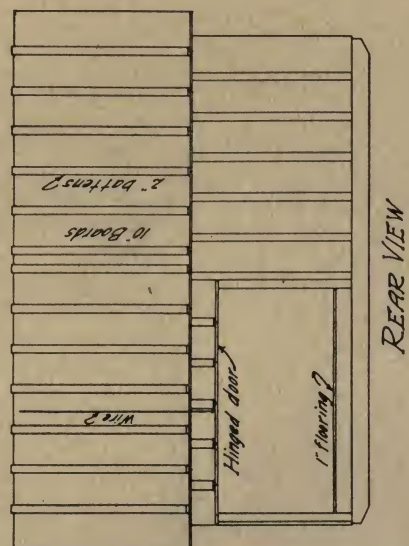
Plan 3—Four Pen Central House

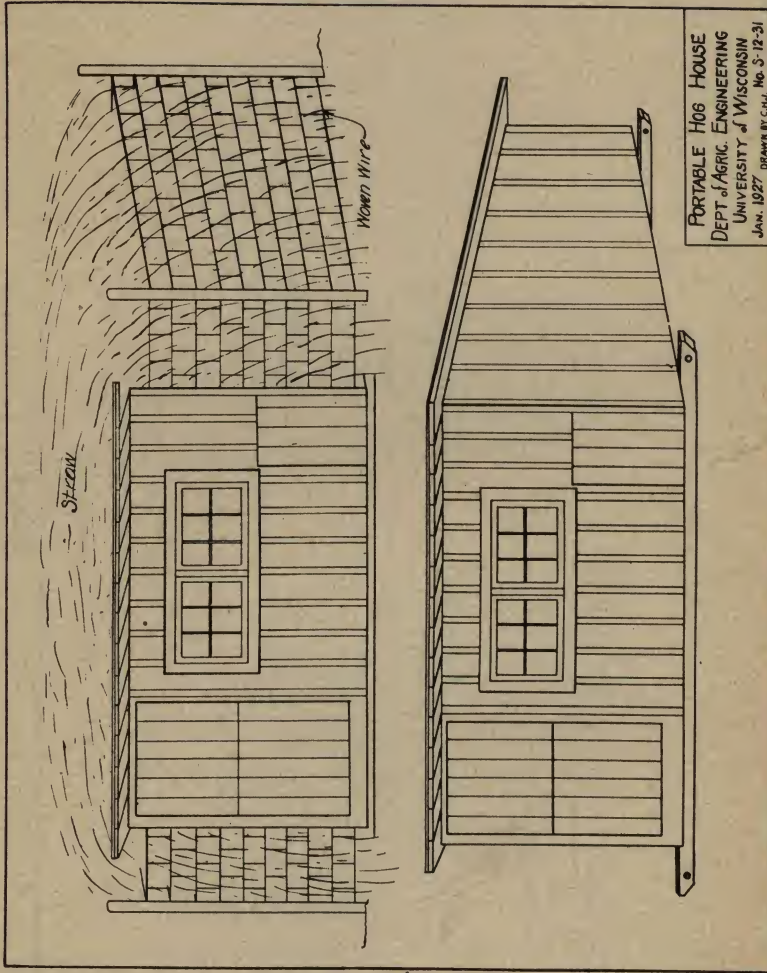


Plan 4—One Pen Shed Roof Movable House

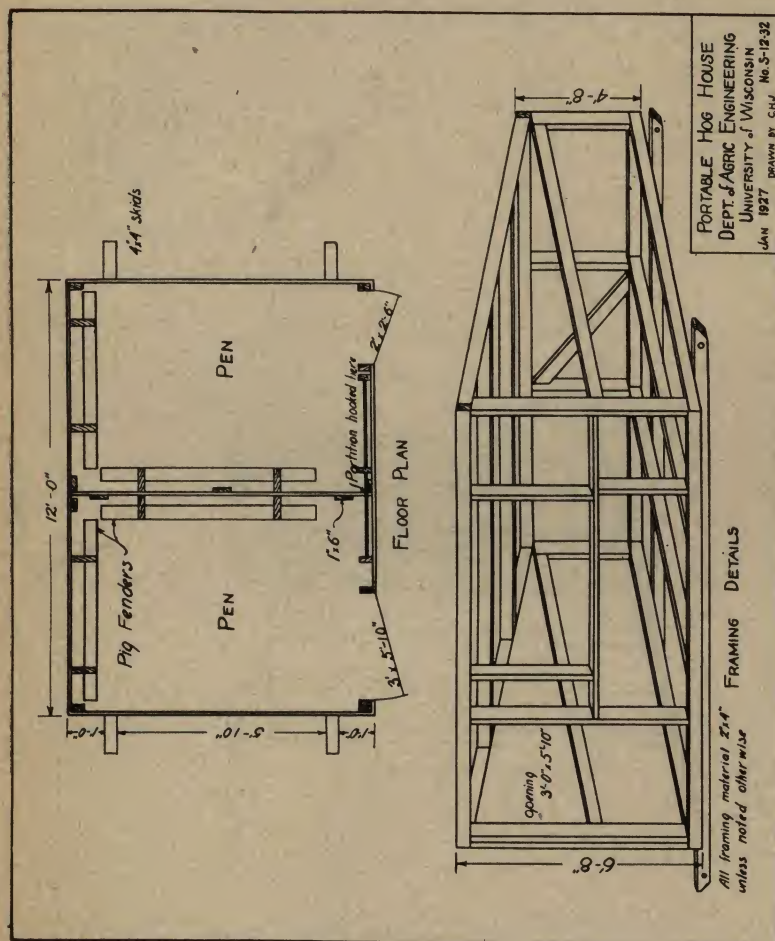
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Plan 4

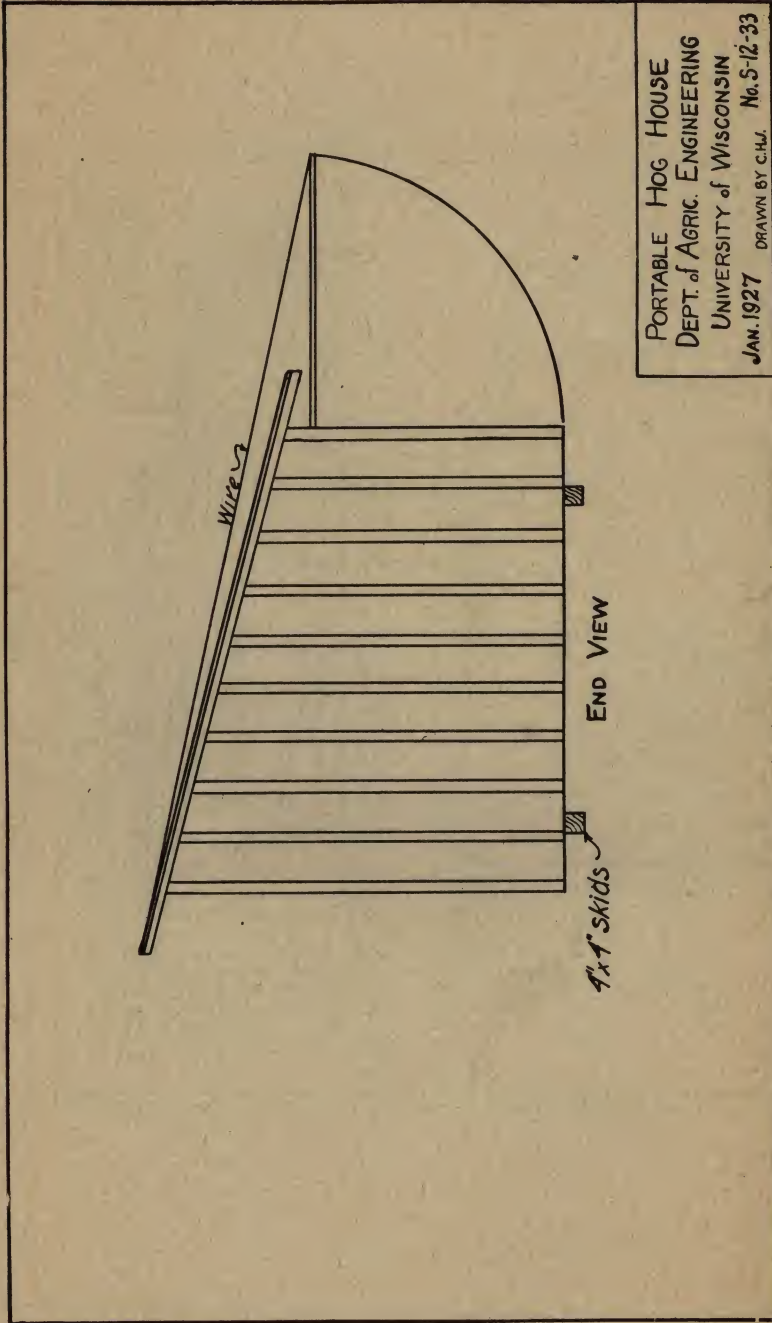




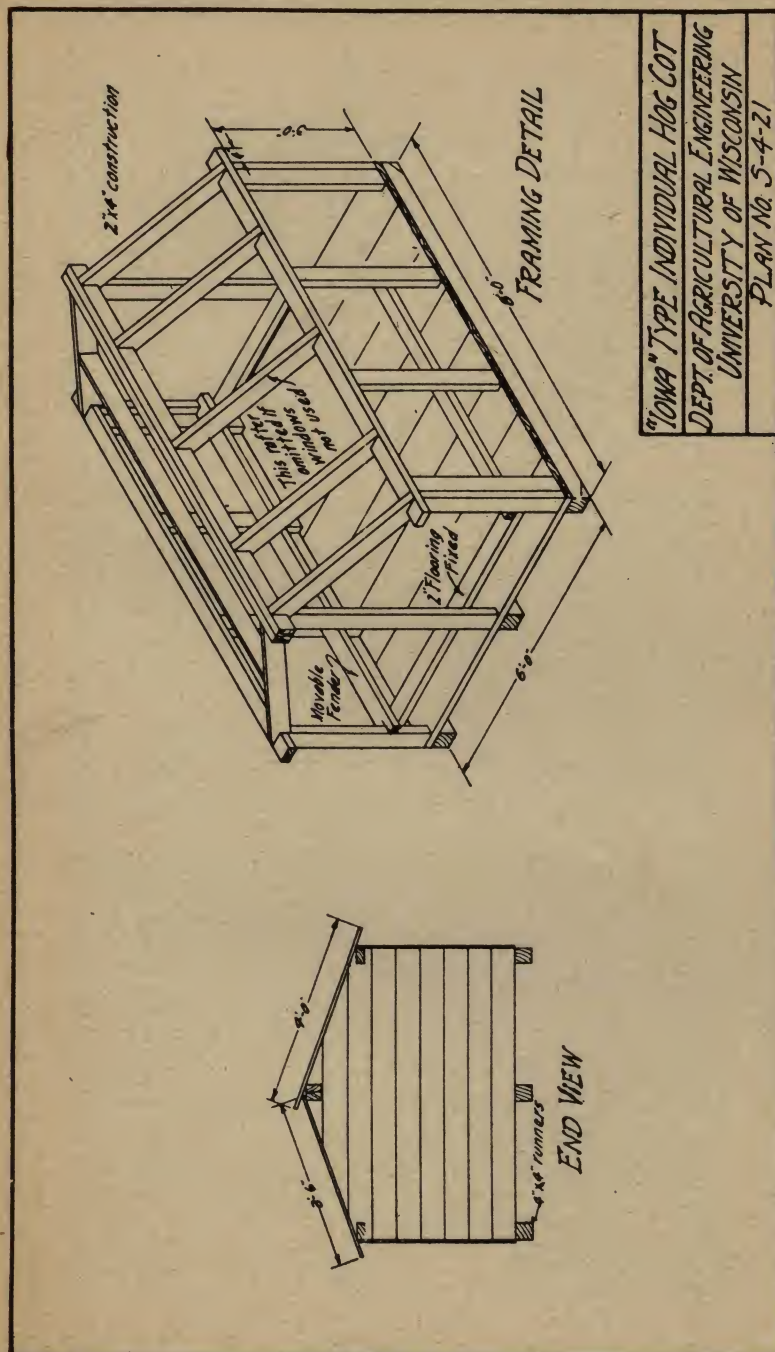
Plan 5—Two Pen Shed Roof House



Plan 5

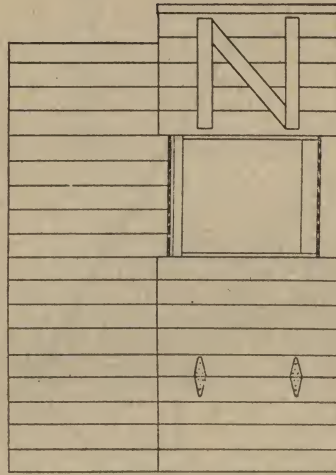


Plan 5

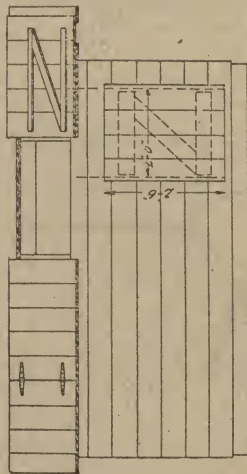


Plan 6—Iowa Type Movable House

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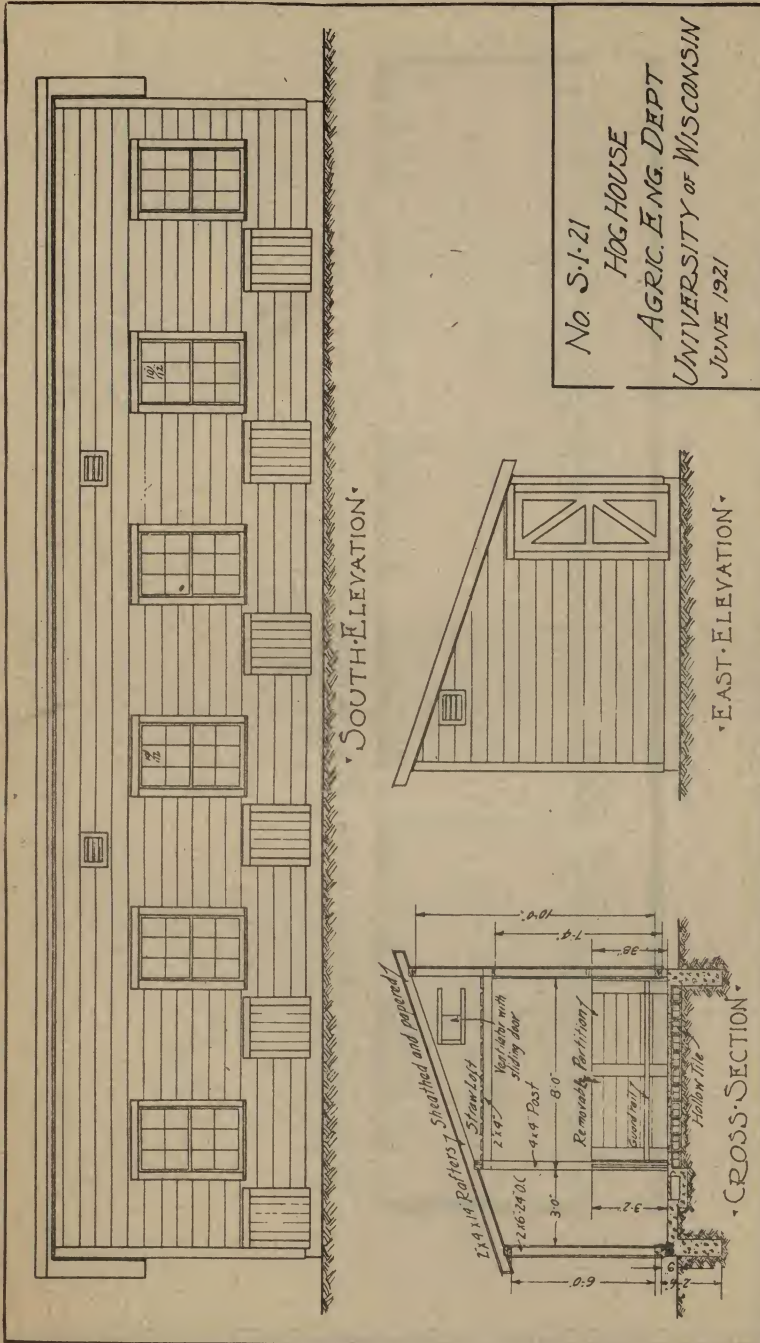


TOP VIEW



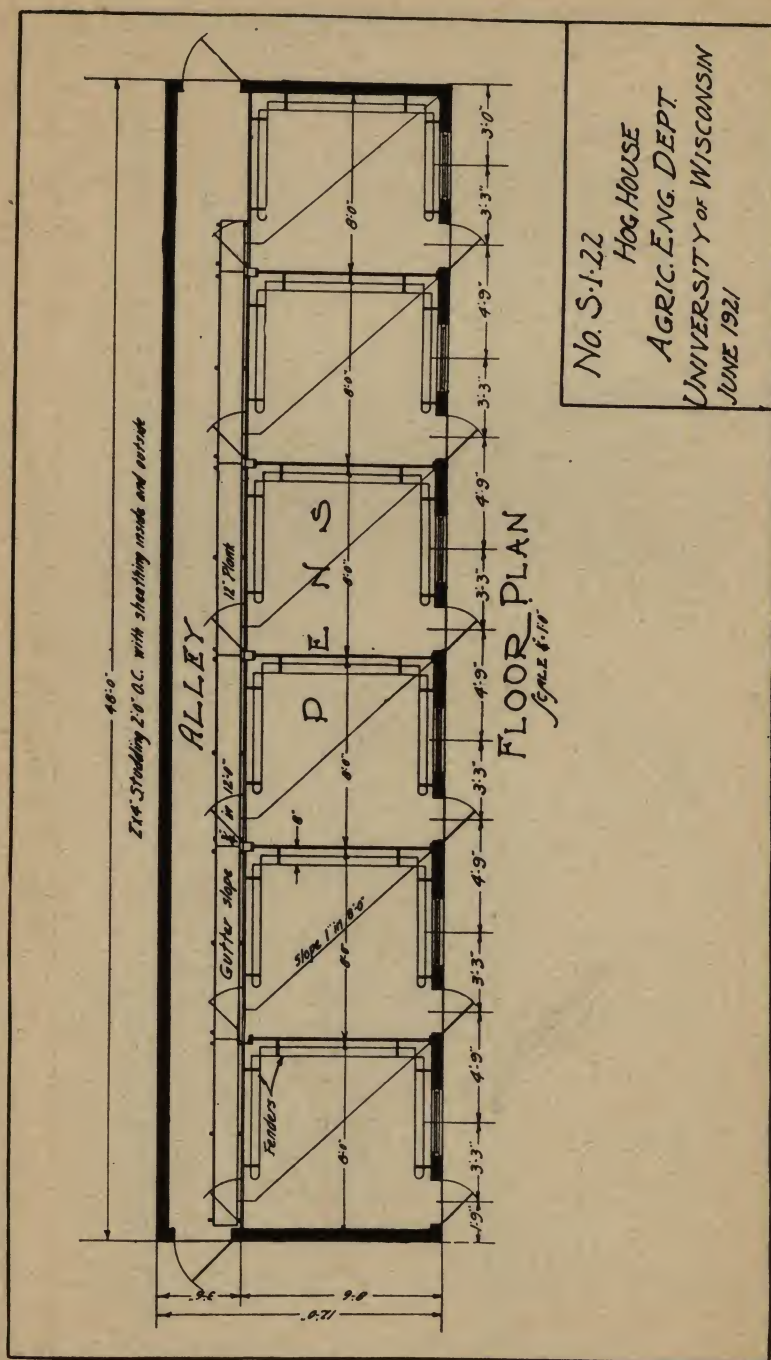
SIDE VIEW

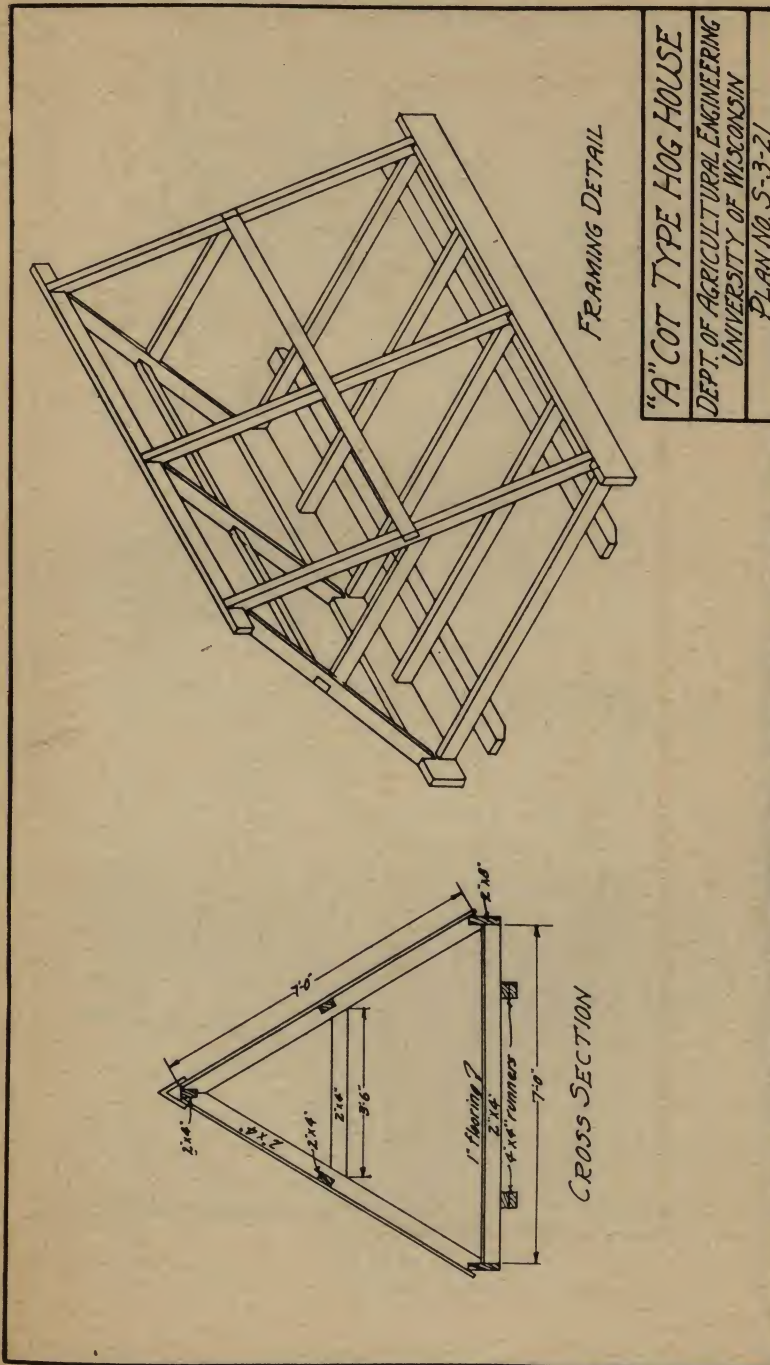
Plan 6

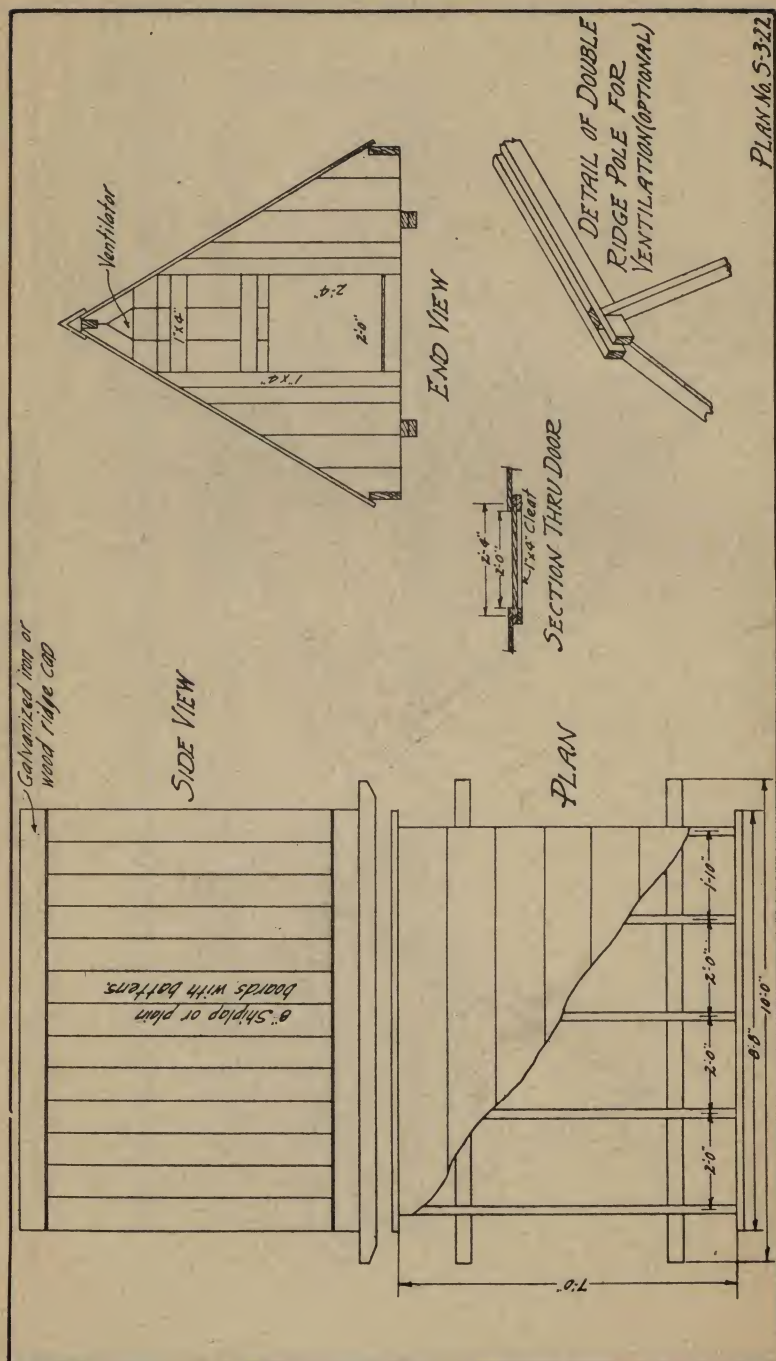


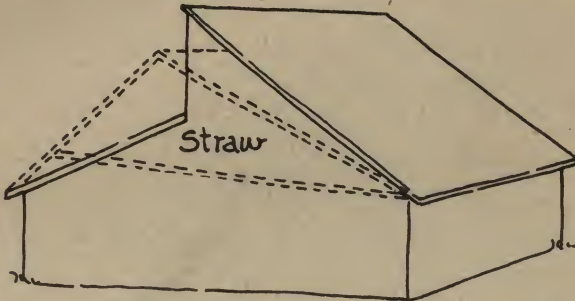
No. S-1-21
 HOG HOUSE
 AGRIC. ENG. DEPT
 UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
 JUNE 1921

Plan 7—Shed Roof Central House

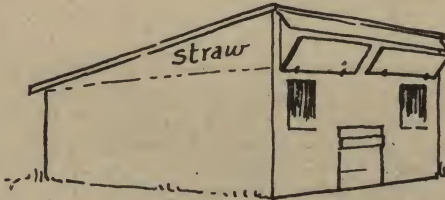




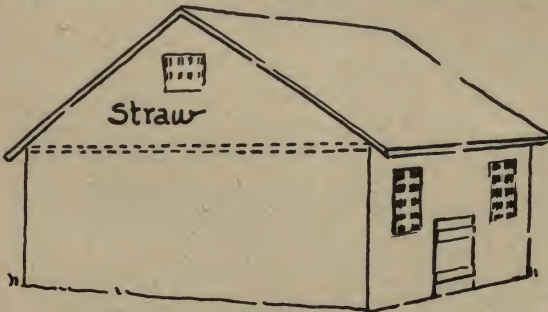




Lower the roof and put in straw pack



A layer of straw for the shed roof house. Doors to put straw in and to air it.



Put in a straw pack

FIG. 6—SUGGESTIONS FOR REMODELING
Many old houses can be made usable with a little remodeling.

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